

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-02

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R 101832 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM BOGOTA MAY 8

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 3725

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SNAR CO

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR' S MEETING WITH NEW MIN OF JUSTICE TO DISCUSS
DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

1. AMB HAD ONE HOUR SESSION MAY 7 WITH NEW MIN OF JUSTICE CASTRO
AND VICE MIN REYES, COL GUZMAN OF NATIONAL POLICE PRESENT.
USING WRITTEN PRESENTATION WHICH WAS LEFT WITH THE MIN THE AMB
REVIEWED PRESENT STATUS OF THE DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM,
MAKING SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION (AIRGRAM BEING
POUCHED).

2. MIN STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE PRES TO MAKE
DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM HIS TOP PRIORITY AS MIN. HE HAD ALREADY
STUDIED THE PROBLEM OF LEGAL BASIS FOR ORGANIZATION OF A COOR-
DINATED OP AND DETERMINED THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO AWAIT
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THE PASSAGE OF THE PROPOSED NEW LAW BY THE CONGRESS IN ITS REGULAR SESSION IN JULY; THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM LAW PASSED BY THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION EARLIER THIS YEAR WOULD GIVE AN ADEQUATE BASIS FOR SUCH AUTHORITY. ALSO STATED THAT HE WOULD REVIEW THE POSSIBILITY OF A DECREE PERMITTING HIM TO DESTROY LARGE AMOUNTS OF CONFISCATED DRUGS NOW IN THE POSSESSION OF HIS GOVT, HERE AGAIN WITHOUT AWAITING THE PASSAGE OF THE PROPOSED NEW LAW.

3. WE DISCUSSED THE AVAILABILITY OF U S EQUIPMENT. IT WAS MADE CLEAR THAT IN PRINCIPLE WE WOULD BE READY TO SUPPLY THE BASIC NECESSITIES PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THE GOC ADOPTED A COORDINATED PROGRAM INVOLVING THE THREE AGENCIES, DAS, CUSTOMS AND POLICE, ABLE TO MAKE USE OF SUCH EQUIPMENT.

4. THE MIN AGREED TO HAVE A MEETING LATER THIS WEEK WITH THE AMB ONCE HE HAD HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE PRESENTATION LEFT WITH HIM.

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